

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 OMB-01 CIEP-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6612

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SEATO

SUBJ: PROPOSED PRESS STATEMENT FOLLOWING 19TH COUNCIL MEETING

FOLLOWING IS PWG-MASSAGED DRAFT OF PROPOSED PRESS STATEMENT TO BE ISSUED AT CONCLUSION 19TH SEATO COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 3. INASMUCH AS COUNCIL REPS WILL BE REQUIRED ADDRESS AND APPROVE DRAFT AT THEIR SEPTEMBER 17 MEETING FOR SUBSEQUENT PRESENTATION TO COUNCIL, REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS PRIOR THAT DATE RE DRAFT.

BEGIN QUOTE. THE COUNCIL OF THE SOUTH-EAST ASIA TREATY ORGANIZATION (SEATO), COMPRISED OF MINISTERIAL REPRESENTATIVES FROM AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, THE PHILIPPINES, THAILAND, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNITED STATES, HELD ITS NINETEENTH ANNUAL MEETING IN NEW YORK ON 3 OCTOBER.

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ANNOUNCED THAT THE COUNCIL HELD AN INFORMAL AND WIDE-RANGING EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE SITUATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND AGREED TO CONTINUE TO UPHOLD THE OBJECTIVES OF THE MANILA PACT AND ITS BASIC PURPOSE OF STRENGTHENING THE FABRIC OF PEACE IN THE REGION.

THE COUNCIL AFFIRMED THAT THE RECENTLY REORGANIZED STRUCTURE AND PROGRAMMES OF SEATO ACCORDED WITH THE GOAL OF THE TREATY THAT MEMBER NATIONS CO-OPERATE IN PROMITING ECONOMIC PROGRESS, SOCIAL WELL-BEING AND PEACE IN THE TREATY AREA, AND WERE CONSONANT WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE CURRENTLY PREVAILING CONDITIONS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

SATISFACTION WAS EXPRESSED BY THE COUNCIL WITH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REORGANIZATION OF THE STAFF AT SEATO HEADQUARTERS IN BANGKOK IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DIRECTIVES OF THE EIGHTEENTH COUNCIL MEETING HELD LAST YEAR. IT AGREED THAT THE INTEGRATION OF THE CIVILIAN AND MILITARY STAFFS OF THE ORGANIZATION, WHICH CAME INTO EFFECT ON 1 FEBRUARY 1974, FACILITATED SEATO'S CURRENT EMPHASIS UPON SUPPORTING THE INTERNAL SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES OF THE TWO REGIONAL MEMBERS, THE PHILIPPINES AND THAILAND.

THE COUNCIL ALSO NOTED THAT SEATO ASSISTANCE TO PROJECTS IN THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FIELDS HAD BEEN INCREASED, WITH GREATER EMPHASIS UPON THE RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND RURAL EDUCATION SECTORS. MEMBER COUNTRIES WILL CONTINUE MULTILATERAL OR BILATERAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC AID TO THE REGIONAL MEMBERS UNDER SEATO AUSPICES. END QUOTE KINTNER

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